

Serial No. 09/939,535

Docket No.: KCC-16,221

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions; and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Withdrawn) An absorbent material, comprising:  
an upper layer including pulp fluff and superabsorbent material;  
a lower layer including pulp fluff and superabsorbent material;  
wherein the absorbent material has a thickness in a range of between 0.5 and 7.5 millimeters, and an absorbent capacity between about 14 and 40 grams 0.9 w/v% saline solution per gram of absorbent material, and the lower layer has a greater density than the upper layer.

2. (Withdrawn) The absorbent material of Claim 1, wherein the upper layer has a density in a range of between 0.05 and 0.45 grams per cubic centimeter.

Claim 3 (Canceled)

4. (Withdrawn) The absorbent material of Claim 1, wherein the lower layer has a density in a range of between 0.15 and 0.55 grams per cubic centimeter.

Claim 5 (Canceled)

6. (Withdrawn) The absorbent material of Claim 1, wherein a difference between the density of the upper layer and the density of the lower layer is in a range of between 0.01 and 0.40 grams per cubic centimeter.

Claims 7-8 (Canceled)

9. (Withdrawn) The absorbent material of Claim 1, wherein the upper layer comprises between 20 and 70 wt% superabsorbent material.

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10. (Withdrawn) The absorbent material of Claim 1, wherein the lower layer comprises between 10 and 80 wt% superabsorbent material.

11. (Withdrawn) The absorbent material of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent material has a thickness in a range of 1 to 7 millimeters.

12. (Withdrawn) The absorbent material of Claim 1, wherein the absorbent material has an absorbent capacity of at least 16 grams 0.9 w/v% saline solution per gram of absorbent material.

Claim 13 (Canceled)

14. (Withdrawn) The absorbent material of Claim 1, further comprising an intermediate layer between the upper layer and the lower layer, wherein the intermediate layer includes pulp fluff and superabsorbent material.

15. (Withdrawn) The absorbent material of Claim 1, further comprising an additional layer on top of the upper layer, wherein the additional layer includes pulp fluff and superabsorbent material.

16. (Withdrawn) The absorbent material of Claim 1, wherein the upper layer comprises a bottom surface facing the lower layer, the lower layer comprises a top surface facing the bottom surface of the upper layer, and a surface area of the bottom surface of the upper layer is greater than a surface area of the top surface of the lower layer.

17. (Withdrawn) The absorbent material of Claim 1, wherein the lower layer is discontinuous.

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18. (Withdrawn) The absorbent material of Claim 1, wherein the upper layer is drum-formed.

19. (Withdrawn) The absorbent material of Claim 1, wherein the lower layer is air-laid.

20. (Withdrawn) An absorbent article comprising the absorbent material of Claim 1.

Claims 21-25 (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) An absorbent material, comprising:

a drum-formed upper layer including pulp fluff and between 20 and 80 wt% superabsorbent material;

an air-laid lower layer including pulp fluff and between 10 and 80 wt% superabsorbent material;

the upper layer comprising a bottom surface facing the lower layer, the lower layer comprising a top surface facing the bottom surface of the upper layer, wherein a surface area of the bottom surface of the upper layer is greater than a surface area of the top surface of the lower layer; and

wherein the absorbent material has a thickness in a range of between 0.5 and 7.5 millimeters, and an absorbent capacity between about 14 and 40 grams 0.9 w/v% saline solution per gram of absorbent material, and the lower layer has a density equal to a density of the upper layer.

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27. (Withdrawn) An absorbent garment, comprising:  
a chassis defining a waist opening and first and second leg openings;  
the chassis including at least a liquid-permeable body side liner, an absorbent assembly and a substantially liquid-impermeable outer cover layer;  
wherein the absorbent assembly includes an upper layer of pulp fluff combined with superabsorbent material, a lower layer of pulp fluff combined with superabsorbent material, the lower layer has a greater density than the upper layer, and the absorbent assembly has a thickness in a range of between 0.5 and 7.5 millimeters and an absorbent capacity between about 14 and 40 grams 0.9 w/v% saline solution per gram of absorbent material.
28. (Withdrawn) The absorbent garment of Claim 27, wherein the upper layer of the absorbent assembly has a density in a range of between 0.1 and 0.4 grams per cubic centimeter.
29. (Withdrawn) The absorbent garment of Claim 27, wherein the lower layer of the absorbent assembly has a density in a range of between 0.2 and 0.5 grams per cubic centimeter.
30. (Withdrawn) The absorbent garment of Claim 27, wherein the upper layer of the absorbent assembly comprises between 20 and 70 wt% superabsorbent material.
31. (Withdrawn) The absorbent garment of Claim 27, wherein the lower layer of the absorbent assembly comprises between 10 and 80 wt% superabsorbent material.
32. (Withdrawn) The absorbent garment of Claim 27, wherein the absorbent assembly has a thickness in a range of 1 to 7 millimeters.
33. (Withdrawn) The absorbent garment of Claim 27, wherein the absorbent material has an absorbent capacity of at least 16 grams 0.9 w/v% saline solution per gram of absorbent material.

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**Claim 34 (Canceled)**

35. (Withdrawn) The absorbent garment of Claim 27, wherein the absorbent assembly further comprises an intermediate layer between the upper layer and the lower layer, wherein the intermediate layer includes pulp fluff and superabsorbent material.

36. (Withdrawn) The absorbent garment of Claim 35, wherein the intermediate layer is drum-formed.

37. (Withdrawn) The absorbent garment of Claim 35, wherein the intermediate layer is air-laid.

38. (Withdrawn) The absorbent garment of Claim 27, wherein the absorbent assembly further comprises an additional layer on top of the upper layer, wherein the additional layer includes pulp fluff and superabsorbent material.

39. (Withdrawn) The absorbent garment of Claim 38, wherein the additional layer is drum-formed.

40. (Withdrawn) The absorbent garment of Claim 27, wherein the upper layer of the absorbent assembly is drum-formed.

41. (Withdrawn) The absorbent garment of Claim 27, wherein the lower layer of the absorbent assembly is air-laid.

42. (Withdrawn) The absorbent garment of Claim 27, wherein the lower layer is discontinuous and is placed in desired locations of the absorbent assembly.

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43. (Currently Amended) An absorbent garment, comprising:
- a chassis defining a waist opening and first and second leg openings;
  - the chassis including at least a liquid-permeable body side liner, an absorbent assembly and a substantially liquid-impermeable outer cover layer;
  - wherein the absorbent assembly includes a drum-formed upper layer of pulp fluff combined with between 20 and 80 wt% superabsorbent material, an air-laid lower layer of pulp fluff combined with between 10 and 80 wt% superabsorbent material, the lower layer has a density equal to a density of the upper layer, ~~[[and]]~~ the absorbent assembly has a thickness in a range of between 0.5 and 7.5 millimeters and an absorbent capacity between about 14 and 40 grams 0.9 w/v% saline solution per gram of absorbent material; and the lower layer is discontinuous and is placed in desired locations of the absorbent assembly.

Claims 44-56 (Canceled)

57. (Previously Presented) The absorbent material of Claim 26, wherein the upper layer and the lower layer each have a density in a range of between 0.05 and 0.55 grams per cubic centimeter.

58. (Previously Presented) The absorbent material of Claim 26, wherein the upper layer comprises between 20 and 70 wt% superabsorbent material.

Claim 59 (Canceled)

60. (Previously Presented) The absorbent material of Claim 26, wherein the absorbent material has a thickness in a range of 1 to 7 millimeters.

61. (Previously Presented) The absorbent material of Claim 26, wherein the absorbent material has an absorbent capacity of at least 16 grams 0.9 w/v% saline solution per gram of absorbent material.

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62. (Previously Presented) The absorbent material of Claim 26, further comprising an intermediate layer between the upper layer and the lower layer, wherein the intermediate layer includes pulp fluff and superabsorbent material.

63. (Previously Presented) The absorbent material of Claim 26, further comprising an additional layer on top of the upper layer, wherein the additional layer includes pulp fluff and superabsorbent material.

Claim 64 (Canceled)

65. (Previously Presented) The absorbent material of Claim 26, wherein the lower layer is discontinuous.

Claims 66-67 (Canceled)

68. (Previously Presented) An absorbent article comprising the absorbent material of Claim 26.

69. (Previously Presented) The absorbent garment of Claim 43, wherein the upper layer and the lower layer of the absorbent assembly each have a density in a range of between 0.1 and 0.5 grams per cubic centimeter.

70. (Previously Presented) The absorbent garment of Claim 43, wherein the upper layer of the absorbent assembly comprises between 20 and 70 wt% superabsorbent material.

Claim 71 (Canceled)

72. (Previously Presented) The absorbent garment of Claim 43, wherein the absorbent assembly has a thickness in a range of 1 to 7 millimeters.

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73. (Previously Presented) The absorbent garment of Claim 43, wherein the absorbent material has an absorbent capacity of at least 16 grams 0.9 w/v% saline solution per gram of absorbent material.

74. (Previously Presented) The absorbent garment of Claim 43, wherein the absorbent assembly further comprises an intermediate layer between the upper layer and the lower layer, wherein the intermediate layer includes pulp fluff and superabsorbent material.

75. (Previously Presented) The absorbent garment of Claim 74, wherein the intermediate layer is drum-formed.

76. (Previously Presented) The absorbent garment of Claim 74, wherein the intermediate layer is air-laid.

77. (Previously Presented) The absorbent garment of Claim 43, wherein the absorbent assembly further comprises an additional layer on top of the upper layer, wherein the additional layer includes pulp fluff and superabsorbent material.

Claims 78-80 (Canceled)